[30th September 1955

THE HON. SRI M. A. MANICKAVELU : (a) No, Sir. However, a representation was received *direct* from the Chairman, Coir Board, in September 1954, requesting the taxation on poramboke lands in Malabar used for retting coconut husks and the licence fees levied by the District Board might be reduced.

(b) The Government considered that the existing rates required no revision. The Collector of Malabar was asked to take into account the representation made by the Chairman of the Coir Board while fixing the rate of rent for fasli 1365. As regards licence fees, the Chairman was informed that it was open to the District Board to reduce the rate if considered necessary.

Tirunelveli Conspiracy Case

* 2647 *Q.*—SRI N. K. PALANISAMY : Will the Hon. the Minister for Finance be pleased to state—

(a) the number of political prisoners in jail who are connected with the Tirunelveli Conspiracy Case; and

(b) the number of prisoners who are sick among them?

THE HON. SRI C. SUBRAMANIAM : (a) Nine prisoners concerned in the Tirunelveli Communist Conspiracy Case are undergoing imprisonment in jail.

(b) Two.

[*Note.*—An asterisk (*) at the commencement of a speech indicates revision by the Member.]

II.—ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE HON. SPEAKER.

(1) MESSAGE FROM THE COUNCIL.

MR. SPEAKER : I have to announce to the House the following message, dated the 29th September 1955, received from the Hon. the Chairman, Madras Legislative Council :—

" In accordance with rule 130 of the Madras Council Rules, I return the Madras Commercial Crops Markets (Amendment) Bill, 1955 (L.A. Bill No. 30 of 1955), as passed by the Council on the 29th September 1955 without any recommendation and signed by me."

III.—STATEMENT UNDER RULE 40 *RE* PREVALENCE OF TYPHOID IN NIDIYENGA AND SREEKANDAPURAM VILLAGES IN CHIRAKKAL TALUK.

MR. SPEAKER : I have received a notice from Sri T. C. Narayanan Nambiar calling the attention of the Hon. the Minister for Health to a matter of urgent public importance, viz., prevalence of typhoid fever in Nidiyenga and Sreekandapuram villages in Chirakkal taluk. Sri Narayanan Nambiar may now explain his point.

SRI T. C. NARAYANAN NAMBIAR : Mr. Speaker, the villages concerned, viz., Nidiyenga and Sreekandapuram villages in Chirakkal taluk had an attack of typhoid fever. In this connexion, I wish to submit that it is an area where there are no medical facilities at all. There are no hospitals, no dispensaries or medical

30th September 1955] [Sri T. C. Narayanan Nambiar]

facilities of any sort available in that area. The nearest hospital is situated at a distance of 20 to 25 miles from the area. When the people of that area had an attack of this disease, some information was sent to the department concerned, but it is very unfortunate that the departmental officials went there only after the death of some persons who had the attack of this disease. Anyhow, I am glad that even after some delay and after the death of some persons, some medical officers went there and something has been done. Even now, I do not know what has been done and I would be glad to hear from the Minister information in this regard. I wish to tell the Hon. Minister that that area has the attack of all sorts of peculiar diseases. I say, ' peculiar ', because no medical facility of any sort is provided to the people in that area. I would appeal to the Hon. Minister to see that adequate medical facilities by way of hospitals, dispensaries and so on, were made available to the people of that area who have made repeated representations to the Government in this matter. Otherwise, the people of that area will continue to have the attack of so many diseases and there will be many more deaths. I would like to know what the Hon. Minister is going to do in the matter.

* THE HON. SRI A. B. SHETTY : There has been no epidemic of typhoid fever in Chapparamba desam of Nidiyenga village and in Kottur desam of Sreekandapuram village of Irikkoor firka in Chirakkal taluk, Malabar district, as reported by the hon. Member Sri T. C. Narayanan Nambiar. 9-50 a.m.

The District Health Officer, North Malabar, visited Chapparamba on 16th August 1955 on receipt of telegram from the " Kisan Secretary ", Chapparamba, reporting deaths due to typhoid. He also sent the Range Health Inspector and one Reserve Health Inspector to the area for carrying out control measures. The house-to-house investigations carried out by the District Health Officer along with his staff and certain other residents of the village, revealed that there were in all 12 attacks and two deaths from suspected typhoid. Out of this, ten were running cases and two were cases of death on 20th July 1955 and 4th August 1955 from suspected typhoid. All the ten running cases were found progressing at the time of the District Health Officer's visit.

The District Health Officer also visited the adjoining village of Kottoor and examined one suspected case. Two suspected attacks of typhoid were reported from this village.

One Reserve Health Inspector and one mazdoor were specially deputed to carry out preventive measures in the area. Houses have been disinfected and wells chlorinated. Two hundred and ninety-five persons were inoculated against typhoid. Propaganda talks were also given.

No cases of typhoid have been reported after the week ending 27th August 1955 from these villages. The health staff are, however, on observation duty in those places.